

WE CLAIM:

1       1. An extruder drive assembly comprising:

2           a housing;

3           at least two extrusion worms each having a drive shaft  
4       extending into the housing; and

5           at least one drive motor including at least one  
6       cylindrical stator fixed in the housing and a cylindrical rotor  
7       cooperating with the stator so as to be rotatably driven by the  
8       stator, the rotor surrounding the drive shafts, each of the drive  
9       shafts being independently connected to the rotor for driving  
10      thereby.

1       2. The extruder drive assembly defined in claim 1

2       wherein a single cylindrical stator is disposed in the housing  
3       and is surrounded by a single cylindrical stator, all of the  
4       drive shafts being connected to the single rotor.

1           3. The extruder drive assembly defined in claim 2  
2       wherein the single rotor is internally toothed and each of the  
3       drive shafts is formed with an externally toothed spur gear, at  
4       least one of the spur gears being directly meshed with the  
5       internal toothing of the single rotor.

1           4. The extruder drive assembly defined in claim 3  
2       wherein two of the shafts have their respective spur gears  
3       independently meshing with the internal toothing of the single  
4       rotor.

1           5. The extruder drive defined in claim 3 wherein one  
2       of the spur gears is directly in mesh with the internal toothing  
3       the extruder further comprising  
4           an intermediate gear in direct mesh between the other  
5       of the spur gears and internal toothing.

1           6. The extruder drive defined in claim 1 wherein there  
2       are two cylindrical stators in the housing each surrounding and

3       driving a respective cylindrical rotor, each of the drive shafts  
4       being connected with a respective one of the rotors so as to be  
5       driven thereby.

1           7. The extruder drive defined in claim 6 wherein each  
2       of the rotors is directly connected to a respective one of the  
3       drive shafts.

1           8. The extruder drive defined in claim 6 wherein at  
2       least one rotor is connected by at least one intermediate element  
3       with the drive shaft of a respective worm.

1           9. The extruder drive defined in claim 8 wherein at  
2       least one of the rotors drives an intermediate shaft coupled by  
3       gearing with the respective drive shaft.

1           10. The extruder drive defined in claim 9 wherein each  
2        of the rotors drives an intermediate shaft coupled by gearing  
3        with the respective drive shaft.